

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-DECEMBER 9, 2002

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad, Hawkins, Holinko, Paterson, Rosen, Martin, Thorkelson
Absent: Schaefer (who is ill)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to approve the minutes of November 25, 2002.

So passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Susan Keplesky, 734 Storrs Road, read a letter to the Council in support of the sponsorship banners.

Denise Merrill, State Representative for the town, expressed support for concerns expressed by persons regarding the Homeland Security Act and the possible impact it may have on Town and State officials.

Mike Bohalsky, feels that the football banners have the support of the business community. He feels that these allow many more students to participate in sports.

Doreen Simmonson, 43 Chatham Drive, urged the Council to allow the sponsorship banners. Putting the signs up and down is not practical. There is also no storage facility.

Victor Kaplan, 8 Mansfield Hollow, spoke in support of a resolution initiated from the Democratic Town Committee. He is very concerned over the Patriots Act, passed by the Federal legislation. He believes it will greatly affect our civil liberties. The Attorney General has too much control and the Act, because it is so broadly based, will affect the way both state and local governments do business.

Richard Sherman, Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee, Pinewoods Lane, supports the committee's resolution, and that local government must address the issue of the Patriot Act. He feels that there needs to be a firm policy about these concerns and it is a local issue.

Tracy Olander, 436 Warrenville Road, read a letter from her husband in support of the sponsorship banners on athletic fields.

Mary Rogers, spoke on the USA Patriot Act. She is very concerned over the possible loss of civil liberties, that there may be a potential for abuse, for invasion of privacy and the profiling of citizens leading to a new crime of domestic terrorism.

Dennis Mullaney, 102 Mansfield City Road, supports sponsorship banners on the athletic fields as a way to support the various sports.

Jennifer Stone, 656 Chaffeeville Road, is a Social Studies Teacher, and is concerned over the implications of the USA Patriot Act. She would support the Town Council with a resolution making a statement on this issue.

Dianne Nadeau, 150 Thornbush Road, spoke in favor of the banners on the athletic fields. Putting up the signs and taking down the signs before and after each event would be a burden on the volunteers. There is also no storage for the signs.

Joe Pandolfo, Riverview Road spoke on the USA Patriots Act. He presented the Council with an article in the "Human Rights" magazine of the American Bar Association, an article "In these times" about libraries being requested to give out information on patrons, and an article in the "Chronicle" about the UConn student who was deported.

Betty Gardner, 98 Foster Drive, spoke on the USA Patriot Act which makes changes in the legal structure within how the law enforcement and intelligence communicates operate.

She is concerned that there will be a loss of liberty.

John Zizka, 224 Spring Hill Road, supports sponsorship banners on the athletic fields. If the Town does not allow banners then the Town must be willing to fund more support to the various sports. Not practical to take down the banners each time.

Ruth McLaughlin, Separatist Road, came to this country with a green card. Visa permissions take a longtime to apply, and discussed the case of the UConn student who was recently deported.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Martin seconded to move up on the agenda the Annual Report by the Arts Advisory Committee, the Annual Report of the Cemetery Committee and the presentation concerning Eastern Highlands Health District.

So passed unanimously.

Under NEW BUSINESS:

6. Annual Report-Arts Advisory Committee

Mr. Jay Ames, Chairman of the Arts Advisory Committee, completed an artist survey, and handed out a flyer on the event celebrating the arts for the town's tercentenary on May 31, 2003 at the Mansfield Drive-In. There will be a display of Artwork and performers throughout the day.

7. Annual report-Cemetery Committee.

Isabelle Atwood spoke on the achievements of the past year. The cemeteries have been cared for by the committee, and broken stones have begun to be restored. This is a slow process, but there is progress is being made.

8.Presentation Concerning Eastern Highlands Health District Cardiovascular Health

Policy and Environmental Change Program.

Jodi Nafis and Kathy Polhemus of Eastern Highlands Health District, discussed the new program which has been added to the Health District.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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1. Acceptance of Hawthorne Lane

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to, effective December 9, 2002 to accept Hawthorne Lane as part of the Town of Mansfield's road system.

So passed unanimously.

2. Transportation Enhancement Proposals

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to endorse the applications, as prepared and ranked by staff, to fund four transportation enhancement projects in Mansfield, titled "Downtown Streetscapes and Pedestrian Improvements", "Four Corners, " " Eastbrook Mall Area Streetscape", and "Mansfield Center and North Eagleville Road," under the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Program, and to authorize staff to submit the proposals to WINCOG for regional prioritization and to commit to maintain and operate any improvements if the Town does accept any grant funds.

So passed unanimously.

3. Business Sponsorship and Commercial Advertising in Town Parks

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to table this matter until the Special Meeting of the Council on Saturday, December 14, 2002.
The Assistant Town Manager, Matt Hart, will prepare a revision.

So passed unanimously.

4. Community Center Staffing Proposal

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to table this item until the Special Meeting of the Town Council on Saturday, December 14, 2002.

Motion so passed. Mayor Paterson and Mr. Haddad voted no.

5. University Spring Weekend

Mr. Rosen read an article for the Chronicle.

No action taken.

V. NEW BUSINESS

6. Previously discussed.
7. Previously discussed.
8. Previously discussed.

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Martin seconded to add an item to the agenda-Letter to the Town of Ashford.

So passed unanimously.

Letter to Town of Ashford

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Martin seconded to send a letter from the Council signed by the Mayor to the Town of Ashford offering condolences in the death of the Fire Chief of Ashford.

So passed unanimously.

9.Establishment of a Historic District

Information only, no action necessary.

10.Status Report-Pending Claims and Litigation

Information only, no action necessary.

11. Grant Application-Targeted Capacity Expansion for Adolescent Substance Abuse

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to authorize the Town Manager to complete and submit an application in the amount of \$500,000 per year for a three-year period to fund Targeted Capacity Expansion for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment in Northeastern Connecticut, and to execute related contract agreements with the Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse to establish conditions regarding the administration of the grant program.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to add to the agenda two items for Open Space Acquisitions, the Larkin property and the Vernon property.

So passed unanimously.

11b. Open Space Acquisition-Larkin property

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to hold a public hearing on the acquisition of the Larkin property at the first Council meeting on January 13,2003.

So passed unanimously.

11c. Open Space Acquisition-Vernon property

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Martin seconded to hold a public hearing on the acquisition of the Vernon property at the first Council meeting on January 13, 2003.

So passed unanimously.

12. Town Meeting Date

No action taken.

13. Resolution in Response to USA Patriot Act

Mr. Martin moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to table this item until the Special Meeting on Saturday, December 14, 2002

So passed unanimously.

VI. QUARTERLY REPORTS

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Haddad, Chairman of the Committee on Committees, moved the reappointment of or appointment of the following persons to boards and commissions:

Reappoint Joan Buck, Jane Goldman, Janet LaMarre, Becky Lehmann, Mary Jane Newman, Kathryn Talbot to the Mansfield School Readiness Council.

Appoint Thomas W. Miller to the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Appoint J.C. Martin to the Correctional Facility Liaison Committee.

Reappoint Maria Gogarten and Chris Kueffner to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Reappoint Dennison Nash and Michael Taylor to the Transportation Committee

Appoint Alice Kinne to the Housing Authority.

Seconded by Mr. Rosen. So passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Mayor attended the National League of Cities conference and found many of the seminars had much information. It was a most productive conference.

X. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

Town has received the governor's budget with the CCM budget cuts.

There will be a special meeting of the Town Council at the Senior Center on Saturday, December 14, 2002.

A finalist for the position of Fire and Emergency services Director has been offered the position.

Tony Noelle has stepped down as Fire Chief of Mansfield Fire Department. Ryan Hawthorne is the new Chief.

The construction on the Community Center has slowed down due to weather conditions.

The new ambulance has arrived and should be in service next week.

The Regional District #19 held a meeting regarding the budget and it was attended by the Legislators.

The town has received 6 proposals for bids on the new fire truck.

The Town/Gown Relationship Committee will be meeting on December 10, 2002 at the UConn Police Station.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

XII. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

14. CCM-"State Budget Update: Impact on Mansfield"
15. CCM-"Governor's Mid-year Cuts in State Aid to Municipalities"
16. Connecticut Department of Environment Protection (DEP) re: Greek Campus Storrs
17. Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC)-Subdivision Application Referral
18. R. Miller re: Volunteers Needed for Smallpox Clinics
19. M. Berliner re: Declaratory Ruling Proceeding on Email and Voice Mail
20. Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department-4th Annual Production of the Nutcracker
21. Department of Public Health re: Federal funds to Purchase Automatic External Defibrillators
22. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant Agreement

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr.Thorkelson moved and Mr. Martin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk